Amendments to the specification,

Clean version of the replacement paragraph(s)/section(s), pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1)(ii):

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

RFCs are numbered Internet informational documents and standards widely followed by commercial software and freeware in the Internet and UNIX communities. The RFCs are unusual in that they are floated by technical experts acting on their own initiative and reviewed by the Internet at large, rather than formally promulgated through an institution such as ANSI. For this reason, they remain known as RFCs even once they are adopted as standards. The above-listed RFC documents are currently available via the Internet (e.g., at www.ietf.org/rfc), the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

SMTP: Short for Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, a protocol for sending e-mail messages between servers. Most e-mail systems that send mail over the Internet use SMTP to send messages from one server to another; the messages can then be retrieved with an e-mail client using either POP or IMAP. Further description of SMTP may be found in RFC 821 (and subsequent RFC 2821), the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference. Copies of the foregoing RFCs may be found on the Internet at www.faqs.org/rfcs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

TCP/IP: Stands for Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, the suite of communications protocols used to connect hosts on the Internet. TCP/IP uses several protocols, the two main ones being TCP and IP. TCP/IP is built into the UNIX operating system and is used by the Internet, making it the de facto standard for transmitting data

over networks. For an introduction to TCP/IP, see e.g., RFC 1180: A TCP/IP Tutorial, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference. A copy of RFC 1180 is currently available at ftp.isi.edu/in notes/rfc1180.txt.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figs. 6A-D comprise a sequence of method steps providing a summary of a flow control filtering methodology of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Illustrated in Fig. 3, a computer software system 300 is provided for directing the operation of the computer system 200. Software system 300, which is stored in system memory (RAM) 202 and on fixed storage (e.g., hard disk) 216, includes a kernel or operating system (OS) 310. The OS 310 manages low-level aspects of computer operation, including managing execution of processes, memory allocation, file input and output (I/O), and device I/O. One or more application programs, such as client application software or "programs" 301 (e.g., 301a, 301b, 301c, 301d) may be "loaded" (i.e., transferred from fixed storage 216 into memory 202) for execution by the software system 200. For instance, when the system 200 is employed to control a desktop machine, application software 301 includes client e-mail software 305 (e.g., Microsoft Outlook, available from Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, WA), as shown. When the system 200 is employed to control a server machine, on the other hand, application software 301 includes mail server software (e.g., Sendmail® for NT).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention is implemented as a server-side flow control filter service that interacts with a mail server during arrival of an incoming message. This interaction may be achieved through use of Sendmail "Milter" interface. The Sendmail Mail Filter

API (Milter) provides an interface for third-party software to validate and modify messages as they pass through the mail transport system. Filters can process messages' connection (IP) information, envelope protocol elements, message headers, and/or message body contents, and modify a message's recipients, headers, and body. Using Sendmail's corresponding configuration file, one can specify which filters are to be applied, and in what order, allowing an administrator to combine multiple independently-developed filters. Thus in this manner, the Milter plug-in architecture allows a developer to, in effect, plug into the e-mail delivery system for inserting custom subroutines or other processing. Accordingly, in the preferred embodiment, the flow control filter employs the Sendmail Milter interface for accessing internal phases and data of SMTP processing, and blocking or permitting message processing. For further description of Sendmail's Milter, see, e.g., "Filtering Mail with Sendmail" available from Sendmail, Inc. (and currently available via the Internet at www.sendmail.com/de/partner/resources/development/milter_api/), the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.